

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 6

September 15, 1948-
October 25, 1948

0172

15 September 1948

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of your letter of 13 September, and I am hastening to reply to it. In the first place I wish to advise you that my car is not as yet completed and is still in the repair garage. Very frankly, the repair job was quite unsatisfactory in that it was scarcely possible to open the door, and I returned it to them as unacceptable. The head of the firm admitted that this work was unsatisfactory, but said it was because he was away at the time it was delivered to me.

I note what you say concerning contributory negligence, and I suppose that I can do nothing in this matter. However, I must insist in my own belief that there was no contributory negligence excepting that which occurs in any accident where both cars are moving. In the case of the Rhode Island Mutual, I wish to reiterate that I was in no way consulted by anyone from their firm other than the secretary asking me to fill out a form. I therefore consider that the investigation conducted by the Rhode Island Mutual was incomplete and that their decision in this matter was high-handed to say the least. One of these days, if I can, I plan to go to Providence to see the President of that Company, if he is accessible. I wish to ascertain the methods in use by that Company in the solution of their problems.

As for the Hartford Indemnity, I wish to say that this is my first association with your firm in a matter of this kind. I have known the Hartford Fire and have recognized it over many years as a company of extremely high character. I had hoped that I would find the same situation with the Hartford Indemnity, but at the present moment I find it difficult to make up my mind.

Your adjuster, I think a Mr. McClain, came to see me and was extremely pleasant. However, his first act was to present me with a form wherein I was to practically admit contributory negligence in that I was to pay \$25.00. His last act was to inform me that he thought that I was correct. Insofar as I am

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concerned, the two ideas did not jibe. My office force here felt that when your adjuster left, the decision was going to be against me. Fearing this, I endeavored to bring the adjuster to the street corner where the accident occurred so that he might see why I thought that there was no contributory negligence. I have pointed out the scene of the accident since to others, and all of them agree that the negligence must have been on the approaching car. Your adjuster seemed to have no interest in going down and looking at the scene with me. In my adjustment experience in the Hawaiian Islands, I discovered that whenever I took the car to the scene of the accident the errors became painfully apparent.

My opposition to this contributory negligence is not the \$25.00, which is quite simple to pay; it is the fact that not only am I being forced to pay \$25.00 but also the Hartford Indemnity is paying a much larger figure, which I had not thought necessary. It is true, I believe, that there are statements from witnesses blaming me in part. How this happens, I do not know, as I stated at the time of my original report that those there were uninformed as to what happened. Can you imagine people waiting at a blind corner to watch a car come out from behind a building and run into another? I think that the answer is No.

I am not questioning the character of the witnesses, as I know through long experience the value of evidence. I realize that two or three persons can see the same thing and get different answers. My attitude is based solely on this: "That at no time were the drivers of the cars nor the witnesses, nor the cars brought together by either insurance company." This may be good practice, but insofar as I am concerned it is an expensive one, because it not only costs dollars and cents, but costs the confidence of those insured.

I will fill out the form presently and return it as per your desires, although I shall do this with reluctance.

Very truly yours,

R. W. Bates

Hartford Accident and Indemnity Co.
29 Weybosset St.
Providence, R.I.

0174

20 September 1948

Dear Captain Hutchinson:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 13th instant. I appreciate getting it very much as it is part of my background if and when I make the decision to retire.

The work I am doing at present is, of course, interesting to me, but as Captain Ross well knew, it is difficult for a fellow of my nature to remain calm when his work is being sniped at. By this I mean to say that in writing these analyses, I should have permanency of personnel. What I am actually getting is a new team at least every year and often there are changes within the year, which slows down my work excessively. This is very trying, to say the least, and is my principal bugbear.

I have not been to the Newport Hospital since I wrote you, but I presume that my blood pressure is as they found it--128 over 80, but I do not know. I find here that my principal difficulty with the chest pulls occurs during the more humid weather, although I notice it at other times too. The edema does not appear to be any worse. I have not measured the leg swellings recently, so I cannot comment on that. During the last measurements my leg expanded daily from 15-3/4" to about 17".

I am awfully glad to hear that you have just returned from leave. More than that, I hope that you found your leave enjoyable and beneficial. You are the hardest working fellow that I know of. Therefore I want you to know that I appreciate the time you have given to me.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Capt. C.J.Hutchinson
U.S.Naval Hospital
Mare Island, Calif.

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, R. I.

21 September 1948

Dear Penn:

As I told you when I loaned you an advance copy of the Battle of Midway I might have to recall it. Well that situation has now occurred. We are receiving requests for advance copies of the Midway study so, as I have but one copy left, I am recalling the others.

I should appreciate your courtesy if you would return the copy which I loaned you. If all goes well I should be able to give you a printed copy within the month.

Things are going on here about as usual. The class appears to be a good one and are working well. My own work appears to be progressing slowly. My staff is being given extraneous jobs which throw them completely out of gear with the Battle of Savo Island. One of them took a month off to prepare a speech for the Armed Forces Information School. He did an excellent job there but my work, to all intents and purposes stopped.

They have decided to print 1200 copies of Midway and have increased to printing of Coral Sea to the same. All flag officers are to have personal copies. That is gratifying. They have also authorized a movie on the Coral Sea which we are now preparing. I hope that it will be good.

I trust that all goes well with you and Marybelle, and that you have accustomed yourself to the life of a simple gentleman.

No relief for Hoke has arrived as yet. Rumors are now that it will be 1 November.

With warmest regards.

Your old friend,

Commodore Penn L. Carroll, USN. (Ret).
217 Shelby Street,
Frankfurt,
Kentucky.

0176

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, R. I.

21 September 1948

Dear Frank:

I am enclosing herewith two tickets for the California-Navy game at Baltimore on Saturday September 26th. This should be a great game. These tickets were sent to me by my brother.

I should appreciate your kindness if you would sell them for me as I cannot use them and there is no market in New England.

The resale price must not exceed the price indicated viz., \$3.75.

Many thanks for your kindness.

I like your year book but I would like to see your name somewhere.

Best regards, as ever

Your old friend

R.W.BATES

Mr. Frank Davies
University Club
1135 16th St.,
Washington, D.C.

0177

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, R. I.

21 September 1948

Dear Gums:

This is merely to request that you return the copy of the Battle of Midway which I loaned you. We are receiving requests for advance copies for official use and have no spares.

The movie on the Coral Sea has been authorized and the script writer is here now. I hope that it will be successful. Many thanks for your help.

I also hope that you are going to get the sea job that you asked for. You should get something good after your work there.

Best regards. As ever,

Yours sincerely,

R. W. BATES.

Commander Donald G. GUMZ, USN.
Room 3804,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C.

Miss returned

0178

23 September 1948

Rear Admiral Matthias B. Gardner, AVH, USN
Commander, Pacific Division
Military Air Transport Service
Hickam Field
Honolulu, T.H.

Dear Gardner:

The Department of Analysis of the Naval War College is studying the Battle of Savo Island, 8-9 August 1942.

Admiral Hepburn's report of informal inquiry into the circumstances attending the loss of the cruisers on August 9, 1942 mentions Admiral Turner's despatch 070642 (August 1942) to Admiral McCain, quoted, paraphrased as follows:

"The plan of search for D+1 day does not cover sector 290 to 318 from Malaita. Southwest Pacific is responsible for this sector but I consider a morning search by you is necessary for adequate cover".

It is not known what action was taken on that despatch. The sources of information presently available at the Naval War College do not add any light to this question.

Since it is not possible to get a comment from Admiral McCain, it would be greatly appreciated if you could refresh your memory on this point and give the Naval War College your comment covering the following:

- (a) Action taken by ComAirSoPac, CTF 63, on this request of CTF 62, Admiral Turner.
- (b) The reasons of CTF 63 for such action.

The Department of Analysis, in studying the air reconnaissance and searches on 7 August and 8 August, desires more light to be thrown on the matter of communications covering contact reports from the Allied Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area. It appears that the primary responsibility for air search covering enemy approach to the Tulagi-Gudalcanal operations lay with Task Force 63, Rear Admiral

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John E. McCain. Arrangements for the cooperation of Commander Southwest Pacific Area in reconnaissance operations were assigned to Admiral McCain's cognizance. What communications arrangements existed between Commander Allied Air Forces, SoWestPac Area, and ComAirSoPac?

The Japanese cruiser force was sighted first at 1025 (-11 time) on August 8th by an R.A.A.F. Hudson, based at Milne Bay, in a position east of Bougainville Island about 300 miles from Savo Island. Information of this contact did not reach Admiral Turner until about 1845 on August 8th. Apparently this contact report was not made until the R.A.A.F. Hudson pilot returned to his base at Milne Bay. Here his report was relayed to the Headquarters of the Allied Air Force at Brisbane either as a special message or in a summary at the end of all searches. It was then passed to Canberra for transmission on the Bells schedule, and from Canberra to Pearl Harbor for transmission on the Fox schedule. It would seem that such a contact report should have reached Admiral McCain direct and at the earliest possible moment.

I should appreciate any help you can give us in this matter as well as any comments you may care to make on this or any other matter connected with this action.

Very sincerely yours,

ALLAN E. SMITH
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.
President, Naval War College, Acting

0180

28 September 1948

Dear Harry:

This is to thank both you and Margaret for a very wonderful weekend. You are an extraordinarily fine pair, and a couple of days with you would do anyone good, and especially me.

I like your house very much, and I particularly enjoyed that bed. I thought that my bed at home was very fine but that one I was in on Saturday night threw me into sound slumber instantaneously.

Naturally I enjoyed your meals. You have very fine food--too fine, in fact, for me, as I am trying to reduce. At your house I evidently put on several pounds.

I was quite interested in the football game, although we didn't talk about it very much. I think that the Navy team has great prospects for the future and I look forward to a more successful year than last year. I wrote to my brother, who is one of the heads of the Grid Club and California Alumni, and told him that I thought California had not done as well as I had reason to expect. I enumerated what I thought were the failures of the team, which I hope will be corrected.

It was a lot of fun seeing Judy Dame. She brought back old memories. Yesterday I was at Ross Cooley's, and both of them remembered her very well from long ago. I like Mr. Dame also. He appears to be a very fine gentleman. Thank you for inviting me there.

The world situation still smells, but the smell, I hope, is more deadly than the quality of the cheese. The feeling around here seems to be that which you had there--that is, that it will not lead to war, although it is serious.

The weather up here in Newport is perfectly delightful. I have always noted that our early falls are swell here. Actually, Newport weather today is like the best in California in the San Francisco area. More tribute I cannot pay.

0181

The plane flight back up was excellent--the weather very calm--and I was able to listen to the ball game between the Red Sox and the Yankees. As the Yankees won, you can imagine that I fully enjoyed it.

There isn't much new to say at present. Everything is about the same here at the College, with no further information concerning the arrival of Admiral Beary.

Once again let me thank you and Margaret for your kindness in looking out for me over the weekend and for taking me to the game. I enjoyed everything but the Navy's defeat. That, of course, was not pleasant but not unexpected.

Take care of yourselves, and best of luck in everything. As ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Vice Admiral Harry W. Hill
National War College
Washington, D.C.

0182

30 September 1948

Dear Colonel Paul:

This is to confirm the telephone message which Commander Innis made yesterday, Tuesday, from Naval Air Station, Anacostia.

In accordance with your suggestion there is forwarded herewith as an enclosure a copy of each of two letters written to General Malony of the Historical Division, Special Staff, U.S. Army, requesting information as to the air reconnaissance in the Southwest Pacific Area.

Your kind offer to be of assistance to the Department of Analysis, as relayed by Commander Innis, is greatly appreciated. Any information you can provide to cover the material requested of General Malony will be most helpful to us here.

Thank you for your generous cooperation.

R. W. Bates

Colonel Wilfred S. Paul, U.S.A.F.
Office of Air Force History
Room 5 C 133
Pentagon Bldg.
Washington 25, D.C.

0183

8 October 1948

Dear Jack:

Your letter in reply to mine was extremely interesting, and the typical Jack Bergen that I have always enjoyed. Thanks very much for it.

In the first place I want to thank you for your kind offer to have me as your guest had the Yankees won the World Series. No one would have enjoyed going more than I would have to at least one of the games, and to be there with you would have been extremely interesting. I am sorry that it was not to be.

I noted Bucky Harris's departure from the Yankee line-up with sincere regret, as you and I know that he is one of baseball's great managers, and I think his departure is a distinct loss to the Yankee team. I do think though that Bucky should have a good chief of staff to sit there and assist him in formulating his decisions. I did that for a number of Admirals who became very well known later and as a consequence. We both agree that Bucky is very human and this humanness brings strong loyalties. It is also on account of this humanness that Bucky appears reluctant to remove a pitcher who is showing weakness. I cannot but feel that in a well-managing ball club with loyalty both up and down, the devotion to Bucky--that is the loyalty up--would have not only permitted him to remove a faltering pitcher but the faltering pitcher would expect it. I realize, of course, that both Sea and Page and at the end, Vic Raishi, were of little use to Bucky and that he had to rely on his own intuition based on his knowledge of his pitchers. Perhaps Burns was the only man he could put in on that first of the last two games in Boston. I wonder, however, if this was so. Everyone knew that Burns was as wild as a March hare and was bound to give walks. I understand that he gave up 5 walks and 3 hits in the few innings he pitched. It seems reasonable to me to say that a wild pitcher does not belong in the Big Leagues, but if it is desired to keep him, he should be used against the weaker teams, where his walks are not costly, rather than against the most powerful teams where one walk may cost a game. Look at Bob Feller and his walk, which

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cost him the loss of a two-hitter. Enough for that.

I certainly hope to see you presently, and best of all, I hope to hear that business with you is progressing favorably, and that the good humored, capable Jack Bergen of old is the Jack Bergen of today. This can only be if business successes are as you wish. I feel that they are.

With best regards to you, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Cdr. John J. Bergen
Hotel Pierre
New York City

0185

11 October 1948

Dear Gums:

Glad to hear from you and to hear that you have such a good job out there.

I find that your copy of the manuscript of the Battle of Midway was returned, but managed to get in the wrong channel here at the War College. Sorry to have troubled you about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates

Commander Donald G. Gums, USN
United States Pacific Fleet
Fleet Air Wing Four
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

0186

11 October 1948

Dear Bonvillian:

Thanks for your letter of 7 October relative to the manuscript of the "Battle of Midway" which had been loaned to Commander Gums.

I find that the manuscript was returned, but got into the wrong channels here at the Naval War College.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. Bates

Lt. Cdr. W. D. Bonvillian, USN
Office of Chief of Naval Operations
Room 3804
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0187

12 October 1948

Dear Allan:

The other day mother sent me a newspaper clipping from the San Francisco Chronicle apropos to the departure from this world of your eldest brother, Charles. I cannot begin to tell you what a shock it was to hear of your loss, and to assure you that the entire Bates family feel almost as keenly about it as you do. Charlie was a wonderful fellow. My first recollections of him were when he walked up and down Dayton Avenue while we were playing "duck on the rock" writing poetry. Later, of course, we all remember him as a famed member of the Bohemian Club, to say nothing of being a great success on the radio. When I was last in the Grove in 1946 he was very kind to me, took me to his camp, introduced me to Herbert Hoover, and all in all was the high type of gentleman that has always been located within the Field family.

The greatest satisfaction all of us have in this life is the expectation that we will meet together in another. I feel confident that this is so, and so some day the Bates's and the Fields of Paru Street will meet and reassemble.

With deepest sympathy in your bereavement and with full knowledge that you will keep your chins up, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

0188

13 October 1948

Dear Edgar:

This is merely a note to express to you my personal appreciation of your kindness in asking me to your dinner on Saturday night.

I feel sure that the guest of honor had a perfectly wonderful evening. Braddy Norman, Jr. as well as Ben Cook both have assured me that this is so.

The dinner was excellent, especially the lobster, and the champagne was up to the high standard that the name Edgar Phelps invokes.

I thought that the entire affair was delightfully handled and that it was a ten-strike to place George Tyson alongside Braddy, Sr. Those two fellows had a tremendous evening.

With many thanks for including me, I am,

The Most Youthful Guest,

R. W. Bates

Mr. Edgar Phelps
Newport Reading Room
Bellevue Avenue
Newport, R.I.

0189

13 October 1948

Dear Margaret:

When the orderly arrived yesterday afternoon with the large enameled container beautifully wrapped with green ribbon, you can imagine the excitement in my office. Both Commanders Innis and Cobb gazed with consternation and wondered who it was sending me orchids. I noted the note from you and still was unaware of the surprise in store.

You can imagine, therefore, my great delight when I discovered the oatmeal cookies in such abundance. Even one oatmeal cookie is manna for the gods, and to have received so many, threw me into an inner turmoil of gustatory excitement.

Thanks very much for thinking of me in this wonderful way. I cannot imagine anything I should have more enjoyed receiving, nor anyone from whom I should prefer to receive it.

With many thanks, I am as ever,

Your Oatmeal Cookie Friend,

R. W. Bates

0190

18 October 1948

Dear Jimmie:

We are sending to you under separate cover, as we are to all flag officers, one copy each of the War College analyses of the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. The Battle of the Coral Sea is already in your files, and some of your officers have discussed it with me. The Battle of Midway is entirely new.

I would be interested some day in ascertaining from you what you think of these works. Harry Hill told me that he considered the Coral Sea very illuminating and extremely fair. I certainly hope that the comments on Midway are as favorable as those on the Coral Sea.

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

V. Admiral J.L. Hall
President, Armed Forces Staff College
Norfolk, Virginia

0191

18 October 1948

Dear Ralph:

I am sending you under separate cover our analysis of the Battle of Midway which I hope you will find of interest. It took a long time to prepare this analysis, but this is primarily because of the constant changes in my research staff and because of other duties connected with the Department of Analysis.

It has been approved by both Admiral Spruance and Admiral Theobald and was critically read by Admirals Smith and Brown and by Captain Sylvester, whose comments, where applicable, have been incorporated.

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Rear Admiral Ralph Ofstie
Room 1078
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0192

Dear Reggie:

Somewhat over one month ago I wrote you a letter relative to my future career. Although you did not ask for it, I felt, in view of our discussions together, that it might be well to present in a more or less direct manner the problems which lay before me. It was my hope that you would have been able by this date to have given me some guidance. I still hope that you can.

I have arrived at no different courses of action than those which I wrote you on 24 August. However, I am becoming less and less satisfied that the chance of my being promoted exists at all. If this is so, it would be absolutely silly for me if I did not ask for a physical retirement now. The medical staff at the hospital here have told me that with my "bundle branch block" I should obtain such a retirement. However, the general opinion is that the longer I delay in asking this, the less chance there may be of my getting it. For that reason it seems sensible to me that I should enter the naval hospital here within the next little while rather than put it off until it is time to be retired by force. At that time the medical staff might not feel inclined to give it to me even though I am entitled to it.

As you perhaps know, no one has a deeper interest in the Navy than I have. No one wants to serve his Country in battle more than I do, and I should be the last person to ask for any kind of retirement if I thought that by so doing I was losing a chance to serve. However, I cannot feel that I have much chance

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of being in a war before next June, and retired officers are rarely called back to serve in high place. So now, as the Head of Mare Island Hospital put it, it is time to think of Dick Bates.

My thought is that if the Navy Department feels that my work is up to the standard it desires, and if the Medical Department, having retired me, will certify me for doing work of the kind I am doing at present, I should be willing to do it, as I enjoy the work. On the other hand, I am not so sure that they will so certify me. That is one of the reasons I am in such a quandary. I love the Navy and I love my Country, and I should like to serve them both. But whether the Navy through the Selection Board or through the Medical Board is going to deny me that chance, I do not know. What do you think?

With warmest personal regards to your whole family, I am

Your Old Friend,

0194

18 October 1948

Dear Bill:

I am forwarding to you under separate cover a copy of the Battle of the Coral Sea and Battle of Midway which I prepared as Head of the Department of Analysis. Those who have seen them have been extremely complimentary about them. I hope that you feel likewise.

As a considerable number of flag officers asked me for personal copies, the Bureau of Personnel has directed that all flag officers be given copies, which is being done now.

Some day when you get a chance I would appreciate your comments on them if you get time to read them.

With warmest personal regards and hoping to see you in Washington one of these days, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Vice Admiral William Fechteler
DCNO For Personnel
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0195

18 October 1948

Dear Harry:

I am sending you under separate cover a personal copy of the Battle of Midway. I hope that you find it up to the high standard of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Most of us here feel that it is better than the Coral Sea.

You can see from this study that it was a great deal of labor; but if it accomplishes its mission--to provoke thinking along the lines of command among the higher officers of the Navy--I shall feel well repaid.

Once again I want to reiterate my pleasure in having spent that weekend with you and Margaret. You are a wonderful pair, and you always do me a lot of good.

With warmest personal regards, I am as ever,

Your Old Friend,

R. W. Bates

Vice Admiral Harry W. Hill
National War College
Washington, D.C.

0196

20 October 1948

Dear Admiral Sprague:

We are sending you by separate cover the War College analyses of the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway. The Battle of the Coral Sea was originally issued some months ago--perhaps you have seen it; the Battle of Midway is being issued now.

The above analyses were done, as you know, under a directive of the Chief of Naval Operations. They were prepared by me as Head of the Department of Analysis.

For your information, I have received a great deal of personal and friendly comment on the Battle of Coral Sea from many officers of rank not attached to the War College. Among these were Admirals Hewitt, McMorris, Hill, Ainsworth, Durgin, Cooley, Phillips, as well as numerous others. Admiral Durgin told me that he had directed all members of his staff to read the Battle of the Coral Sea. I hope that the Battle of Midway will meet with a similar reception.

I trust that you will find time to read these analyses, and that you will find them in every way up to the high standard which I know you expect from the War College.

With warmest personal regards and with appreciation for the assistance your Bureau, and in particular your Captain Southwick, gave us in publishing these works, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Rear Admiral Thomas Sprague
Chief of Bureau of Personnel
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.

0197

ROC/ALS-3
Serial 1600

22 October 1943

Major General Harry J. Maloney
Chief, Historical Division D/OA
World War II Group
Room 3E 867
Pentagon Building, Washington 25, D.C.

Dear General Maloney:

Thank you very much for the copy of the Signal Instructions, Annexure B, to Operations Instructions No. 18, and the Signal Annex to Operations Instructions No. Two which you forwarded. We found them and your clarifying comments very helpful.

We now desire a little more help. We find that in analyzing the air searches of the Japanese during the approach of some forces to TULAGI, our source of translated material provides meager information. It is believed that the operations of the SWPA Allied Air forces may throw some light on the weather and other operating conditions, and show the number and disposition of Japanese air and naval forces. We would appreciate copies of the Allied Air forces operation reports for August 1st to 8th, inclusive, similar to those already provided for the 7th to the 10th.

With many thanks for your assistance, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Allan E. Smith,
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.
President, Naval War College.

0198

22 October 1948

Dear Reggie:

I have not as yet acknowledged your very kind letter of 4 October, which I have studied with care. Naturally I think that both you and Bill Fechteler are quite correct in your advice, and I shall carry it out to the letter.

I don't know whether I am really retirable for physical disability now. However, I do have that electrocardiograph picture in my write-up and I do have a heart condition, the nature of which I have never fully understood. I will take my physical examination sometime during next month and at that time the medical staff will have to make their decision. Meanwhile I hope that the Selection Board will discover me although from your conversation with Bill I can readily see that such a hope is almost futile.

It has not as yet been announced officially, but I hear rumors that you are not on the Board and that Bill is. The fact that you are not on the Board I view with concern as I certainly should have liked to have had you as an advocate. I don't know whether I like having Bill on the Board, although I am very fond of him. I appreciate his statement that he could not see any reason for my not having been selected heretofore and that I should have been a Rear Admiral long ago. I hope that he means it, but it is easy to say, particularly to a friend like you. On the other hand, his statement that he thought I didn't have much chance because I am 56 simply does not hold water and may indicate a prejudgement against me. Jim Maher, your old friend of Washington collision fame, got promoted last year at 55. The answer is simply this--if they want to promote you they can, age or no age. I know that you would function that way, and that you would not allow people to be badly handled because of "age, race or previous condition of servitude." Mick Carney is supposed to have promoted Maher.

I was interested in Bill's statement that he could see no reason why I should not be held on to write other analyses, providing the War College so desired and providing I failed of promotion. My attitude here is that I should expect to be called back as a Rear Admiral (Ret.). My highest rank was Commodore, which I won in battle--therefore I cannot very well be called

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back as a Captain. However, all this is speculation and not worth bothering about now.

I am sending you a copy of the Battle of the Coral Sea and one of the Battle of Midway for your personal file. I hope that you will get time to read them and that you will find them up to the high standard which I know you demand.

Many thanks for your very kind offer for the party preceding the Army-Navy game. I shall endeavor to be there. I usually take Mrs. Wear but so far I haven't asked her.

With warmest personal regards to both you and Elsa, I am as ever,

Your Old Chief of Staff,

Rear Admiral James L. Kauffman
Commandant, Fourth Naval District
Philadelphia, Pa.

0200

25 October 1948

Dear Chief:

It has been quite a number of years since I have had the pleasure of seeing you, so it is with great delight that I take my trusty "Secretary" in hand and write you a note.

I looked you up in the Washington telephone directory and that is how I discovered your address. I was pleased to note that you had decided to remain in Washington, although I would not have been surprised if you had gone to California as did Admiral Spruance. As you perhaps know, Admiral Spruance retired this summer, bought a home at Monterey, and is now busily engaged fixing it as his home for the remainder of his years. Mrs. Spruance seems to enjoy the house, although the Admiral bought it without her knowledge. No New England for him!

What I am actually writing to you about is to ask you if the following statement is true. I understand that in the spring of 1938 President Roosevelt requested you to nominate to him three commanders, anyone of which you felt would be competent to be Chief of the Bureau of Engineering. I understand further that I was one of the three so nominated. I was told this at the time at Mare Island, where I had taken command of the CLARK, by Captain Duncan, former Assistant Chief of Yards and Docks. I was told it by Captain E.R. Johnson, who was your Chief of Publications, and finally, Admiral Church indicated to me that he knew about it.

I should appreciate a reply from you as to the truth of this rumor, as I merely wish to enter it in my record in the Navy Department for future reference.

For your information I am here at the Naval War College as Head of the Department of Analysis working on a critical analysis, both strategical and tactical, of the naval battles of World War II.

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It is most interesting in these studies to note no complaints about engines, so, apparently, your judgment in going to high pressure and high steam in your engineering plants was completely justified. I shall never forget the row you had with Captain Evans, to say nothing of Admiral Strauss, over your advanced thinking.

Please remember me most kindly to Mrs. Bowen, and as for yourself, I want you to know that all of us who were with you in Washington always greatly admired your ability to command. You were a great Chief of the Bureau.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Vice Admiral Harold G. Bowen
2819 Woodly Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

0202

25 October 1948

Dear Fred:

I am sending you a personal copy of the Battle of the Coral Sea which you may retain as you will. You may have seen it, but as you appeared to have been moving recently, perhaps this will be your first sight of this book. The Battle of Midway is also finished and is probably in your ship file or will be presently.

I hope that you are enjoying your work and that you find the Navy as attractive as it was some years ago.

With warmest personal regards and with hope that you will remember me to your family, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. Bates

Capt. Fred C. Dickey, USN
Commanding Officer
U.S.S. GENERAL J.C. BRECKINRIDGE (AP-176)
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

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